

DP-301244

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A gas sensor, comprising:
a sensing element, having a lower portion disposed within a subassembly and an upper portion disposed within ~~a wiring harness assembly comprising an upper shield disposed around a wiring harness;~~
a terminal support disposed within said wiring harness, wherein said terminal support comprising a channel extending therethrough, said channel comprising an indentation;
a first portion of a terminal disposed within said indentation of said terminal support and a second portion of the terminal extending out of said terminal support and in electrical communication-physical contact with said sensing element; and
an insulator at least partially disposed within said upper shield and around said sensing element upper portion, said insulator having a passage for receiving ~~asaid~~ second portion of said terminal, wherein weight of said terminal is supported by said insulator.
2. (Previously Presented) The gas sensor of Claim 1, wherein said insulator is a material selected from the group consisting of a ceramic, metal, and combinations, alloys, and composites comprising at least one of the foregoing materials.
3. (Previously Presented) The gas sensor of Claim 2, wherein said ceramic is selected from the group consisting of steatite, alumina, and combinations comprising at least one of the foregoing ceramics.
4. (Previously Presented) The gas sensor of Claim 2, wherein said insulator is in a form selected from the group consisting of random fibers, chopped fibers, continuous fibers, woven fibers, woven mesh, non-woven mesh, and combinations comprising at least one of the foregoing forms.

DP-301244

5. (Previously Presented) The gas sensor of Claim 1, wherein said terminal support is a material selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic, thermoset, ceramic, and combinations comprising at least one of the foregoing materials.

6. (Previously Presented) The gas sensor of Claim 5, wherein said ceramic is selected from the group consisting of steatite, alumina, among others and combinations comprising at least one of the foregoing ceramic materials.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a gas sensor, comprising:
disposing an upper portion of a sensing element within a wiring harness assembly comprising an upper shield disposed around a wiring harness; disposing a lower portion of said sensing element within a subassembly;

disposing a terminal support within said wiring harness, wherein said terminal support comprising a channel extending therethrough, said channel comprising an indentation;

disposing a first portion of a terminal within said indentation of said terminal support and disposing in electrical communication with said sensing element; and

disposing an insulator at least partially within said upper shield and around said sensing element upper portion, said insulator having a passage for receiving a second portion of said terminal;

wherein weight of said terminal is supported by said insulator.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 7, wherein said insulator is a material selected from the group consisting of a ceramic, metal, and combinations, alloys, and composites comprising at least one of the foregoing materials.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein said ceramic is selected from the group consisting of steatite, alumina, and combinations comprising at least one of the foregoing ceramics.

DP-301244

10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein said insulator is in a form selected from the group consisting of random fibers, chopped fibers, continuous fibers, woven fibers, woven mesh, non-woven mesh, and combinations comprising at least one of the foregoing forms.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 7, wherein said terminal support is a material selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic, thermoset, ceramic, and combinations comprising at least one of the foregoing materials.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein said ceramic is selected from the group consisting of steatite, alumina, among others and combinations comprising at least one of the foregoing ceramic materials.

13. (Previously Presented) A gas sensor, comprising:
a sensing element, having a lower portion disposed within a subassembly and an upper portion disposed within a wiring harness assembly comprising an upper shield disposed around a wiring harness;
a one-piece seal, said seal having a body disposed in a first portion of said upper shield and a flange, wherein an edge of said upper shield is disposed between at least a portion of said flange and said body;
a shell disposed around said lower portion of said sensing element;
a first insulator, wherein at least a portion of said first insulator is disposed between said sensing element and said shell;
a lower shield disposed around an end of said sensing element, said lower shield in physical contact with said shell, and having a plurality of apertures;
at least one terminal in electrical communication with said sensing element; and
a terminal support in physical contact with said terminal.

14. (Previously Presented) The gas sensor of Claim 13, wherein said subassembly further comprises a talc pack disposed within said shell between said first insulator and said lower shield.

DP-301244

15. (Previously Presented) The gas sensor of Claim 14, wherein said subassembly further comprises a second insulator disposed within said shell between said talc pack and said lower shield.

16. (Previously Presented) The gas sensor of Claim 13, wherein said first insulator is a material selected from the group consisting of a ceramic, metal, and combinations, alloys, and composites comprising at least one of the foregoing materials.

17. (Previously Presented) The gas sensor of Claim 16, wherein said ceramic is selected from the group consisting of steatite, alumina, and combinations comprising at least one of the foregoing ceramics.

18. (Previously Presented) The gas sensor of Claim 16, wherein said first insulator is in a form selected from the group consisting of random fibers, chopped fibers, continuous fibers, woven fibers, woven mesh, non-woven mesh, and combinations comprising at least one of the foregoing forms.

19. (Previously Presented) The gas sensor of Claim 13, wherein said terminal support is a material selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic, thermoset, ceramic, and combinations comprising at least one of the foregoing materials.

20. (Previously Presented) The gas sensor of Claim 19, wherein said ceramic is selected from the group consisting of steatite, alumina, among others and combinations comprising at least one of the foregoing ceramic materials.

DP-301244

21 - 22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) A gas sensor, comprising:

a sensor element;

a terminal support;

a terminal, wherein the terminal has a first portion disposed in an indentation in the terminal support, and a second portion in spring-like engagement with contacts on the sensor element; and

an insulator comprising an opening through which the sensor element extends and the second portion of the terminal are received, wherein the insulator has an end that extends beyond an end of the sensor element toward the terminal support.

24. (New) The gas sensor of Claim 23, wherein said insulator end is in physical contact with the terminal support.

25. (New) The gas sensor of Claim 23, wherein weight of said terminal is supported by said insulator.

26. (New) The gas sensor of Claim 25, wherein said insulator opening comprises a shelf in physical contact with said second portion.

27. (New) The gas sensor of Claim 23, wherein said insulator opening comprises a shelf having a width that is about a width of said second portion.

28. (New) The gas sensor of Claim 23, wherein the second portion comprises extended pieces, wherein each extended piece is in physical contact with one of the contacts, and wherein the extended pieces are disposed through one opening in the insulator.

29. (New) The gas sensor of Claim 23, wherein the insulator extends beyond said second portion toward a second end of said sensor element.

DP-301244

30. (New) The gas sensor of Claim 1, wherein the insulator extends beyond said second portion toward a second end of said sensor element.

31. (New) The gas sensor of Claim 13, wherein weight of said terminal is supported by said insulator.

32. (New) The gas sensor of Claim 13, wherein the flange extends toward said subassembly.